

SENATE BILL 1910

By Woodson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 1, Part 3, relative to state songs.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the General Assembly has adopted certain songs as
official state songs; and

WHEREAS, over Tennessee's history, eight songs have been honored as official state
songs: "My Homeland, Tennessee" (1925); "When It's Iris Time in Tennessee" (1935); "My
Tennessee" (1955); "Tennessee Waltz" (1965); "Rocky Top" (1982); "Tennessee" (1992); "The
Pride of Tennessee" (1996); and "Smoky Mountain Rain" (2010); and

WHEREAS, "Tennessee," a wonderful song written by the late John R. Bean of
Knoxville, celebrates Tennessee's culture and natural beauty in a wistful, elegiac tone
reminiscent of America's finest folk music; and

WHEREAS, the lyrics to "Tennessee" are as follow:

"Tennessee" by John R. Bean

Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.
I guess your dew has settled on my soul.
Everyday I stayed away,
You called my heart back, home to stay.
Oh Tennessee, I long to come back home.

Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.
Silver skies and lazy afternoons...
Silver clouds and golden moon,
You're Mother Nature's Tender Womb...
Oh Tennessee, I'm missing you too soon.

Your days, have such gentle ways
Aimless thoughts and windblown rhymes
Your nights sing such peaceful songs.
To a tired and weary mind.

Oh Tennessee, I've spent more than I've earned,
But I'm much richer now for what I've learned...

Money won't buy peace of mind,
And peace of mind is what I'll find...
Oh Tennessee, you treated me so kind.

Welcome home
Welcome home ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bean recorded a demo of the song shortly before his passing, thus preserving his inspiring interpretation of "Tennessee" for present and future generations of Tennesseans to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this body should formerly recognize "Tennessee" by John R. Bean as a state song; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-302, is amended by adding the following language as a new subdivision (6):

(6) "Tennessee" by John R. Bean, as adopted by this act.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.